

low price. This has led to the closure of a number of jute mills in West Bengal. It is not only the question of retrenchment or closure of the factories, but it has also badly affected lakhs of jute growers in our country. More than fifty lakhs of jute growers are dependent on the jute economy and as a matter of fact, the West Bengal economy is a jute economy even today.

The JCI, which was created several years ago to procure jute for jute mills and also to ensure reasonable remunerative price for jute growers, has ceased to operate. It has ceased to operate because of the non-availability of funds from the Central Government. As a matter of fact, the JCI employees have not received any payment for several months and they have closed all their operations throughout the State.

Sir, I want that the Government of India should immediately release funds for the functioning of the JCI and also adequate funds for its commercial operation of purchase of raw jute. The season of the raw jute has already commenced. If the purchase of jute is not made from the market by JCI, then the jute growers of the State will suffer very much. I want that the Central Government should address itself to this very big problem of West Bengal.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Let me associate myself with him...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I, through you, would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue. The construction work at Dulhasti Project in Kistwar of Doda district was in progress. The Government has already spent Rs. one thousand crore on it. The Government has stopped work there for the last three years when some terrorists unleashed terror in that area and kidnapped some French engineers. This project was to generate 5000 megawatt-electricity for that area. Due to the stoppage of work, Rs. one thousand already spent on it is being wasted and many employees and people have been rendered jobless.

I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that Chenab has capacity of producing ten thousand M.W. electricity. If the Government resumes the work at three projects of the area, i.e. Salrakot, Bagaliyar and Dulhasti, it will help the Government in solving the problem of terrorism and people will get work as well. The Government has adopted the policy of inaction. It had signed a contract with a French Company but they left the work and quit the country. It is not known as to how much money they took away with them but we have come to know that the Government has made a bargain with some other company and has tried to persuade them to start work there. The project is lying closed there for the last three years and no work is being done. The land worth millions of rupees are being wasted. I would like to draw the attention of the

Government that all the three projects can be run simultaneously. Therefore, these should immediately be commissioned...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Ferozpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards those districts of Punjab which have their boundaries with that of Pakistan. Barbed wires were fenced in the districts of Ferozpur, Gurudaspur and Amritsar on Pakistan border. The policy of the Government was to make wire fencing at the distance of 50 to 150 yards from the border where it is zigzag but the Government could not adopt the policy and instead of leaving 50 yards, the fencing was made at two K.M.'s distance from the border as a result millions acres of land belonging to farmers came in front of the barbed wire. The farmers have to pass through the gate opened at the distance of two Kilometres with the barbed wires both in morning and in evening. When the farmers pass through the gates in the morning, the B.S.F. personnel deputed at the gates, force them to chop the grass around the fencing. Those, who do not do the work, are not permitted to pass through the gate. Only those farmers are permitted to pass through the gate who work at least for two hours as forced labour. So, useful time of farmers is wasted there. When he reaches his field, the whistle of these B.S.F. personnels ring to inform them that it was time for them to return. This is every day's problem of the farmers who are engaged in transforming the wasteland of border into green. They are so much harassed that they are now ready to leave the farming in the land in front of barbed wire.

I would like to request the Government that the barbed wire should have been fenced on the border instead of two kilometer back. Due to it the farmers of the area have to face a lot of difficulties. I demand the Government to pay its attention immediately to the problems of the farmers and wires fenced wrongly should be removed and be fenced on the border so that the farmers may not have their land in front of the wire and they may not face the problem of crossing the border wire through the gate.

I have one more problem. A decision was taken in 1972 after the war that those Government employees who are serving on the border, will be provided compensatory allowance.

*[Translation]*

The most shameful aspect is that since 1972 the Government have been giving this Compensatory Allowance to its employees but after 1988 it is harassing them by taking back the already paid Compensatory Allowance. We have requested the Government to give Compensatory Allowance to the employees posted in the border areas.

Presently no employee is ready to serve in the schools located in border areas. Schools located in the border areas are closed and employees are worried.